**How to Do a Close Reading**

1. Read with a pencil in hand, annotating the text by underlining or highlighting key words and phrases—anything that strikes you as surprising or significant, or that raises questions—as well as making notes in the margins.
2. Look for patterns in the things you’ve noticed about the text – repetitions, contradictions, or similarities.
3. Ask questions about the patterns you’ve noticed – especially how and why. To do so, look back at the text and see what else is going on paying close attention to the evidence, asking questions, formulating interpretations in order to reason toward own ideas.